

What Is Context Sensitive Highway Design?

**Safety, Aesthetics and Community Partnerships:
Context-Sensitive Solutions:**

A Regional Workshop on Context Sensitive Design

30 April – 1 May 2002

Seattle, Washington



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Definition

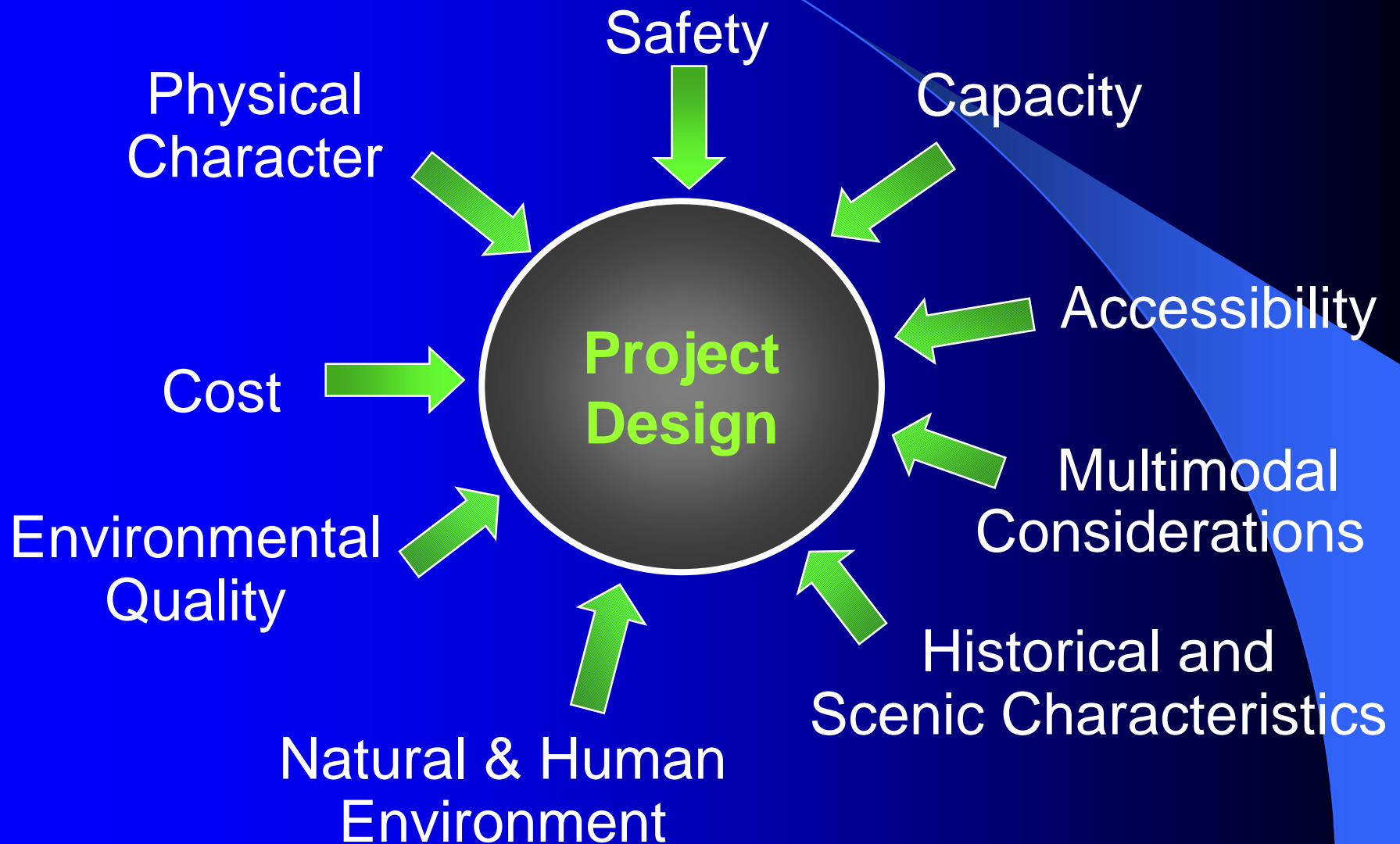
“Context sensitive design (CSD) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSD is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist.”



Other Names for CSD

- **Context sensitive solutions**
- **Thinking beyond the pavement**
- **Innovative Design**
- **Livable Communities**
- **Main Streets**

The Challenge



Design Standards

National Highway System: All new and reconstruction projects -- AASHTO criteria

National Highway System: Federal-aid 3R projects -- FHWA approved State criteria

**All Non-National Highway System projects -
- State criteria**

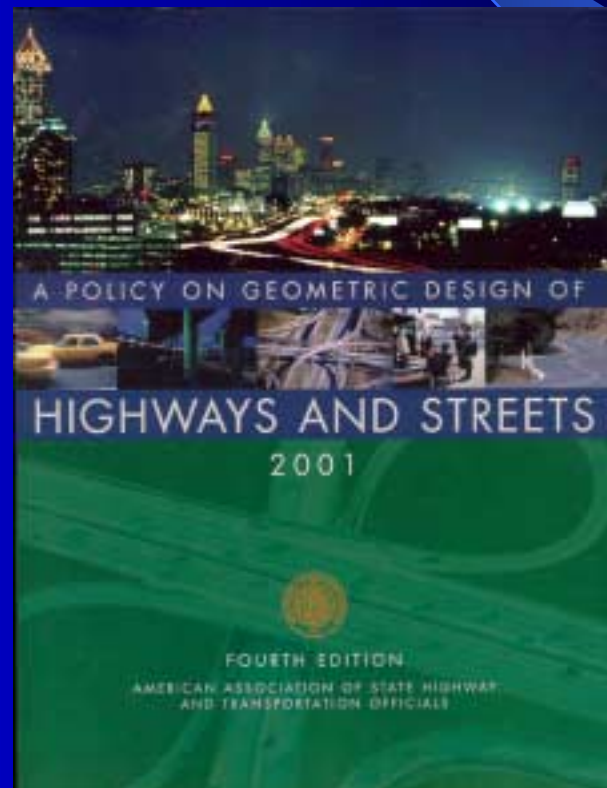
Tools of the Professional

- Flexible Design (“Smart” Use of Green Book)

Minimum

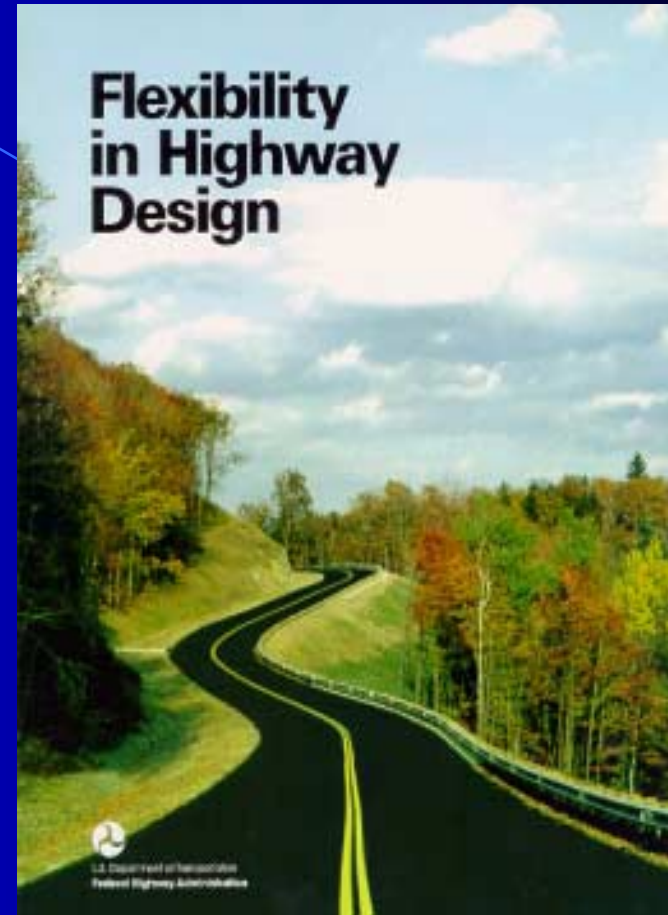
vs.

Desirable



Purpose is to provoke innovative thinking for fully considering the scenic, historic, aesthetic, and other cultural values, along with safety and mobility needs.

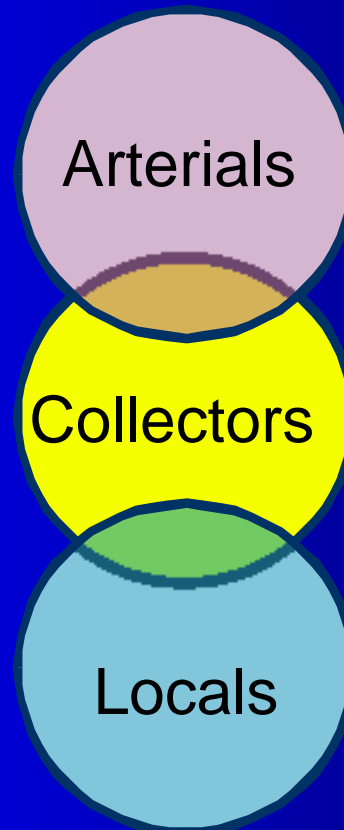
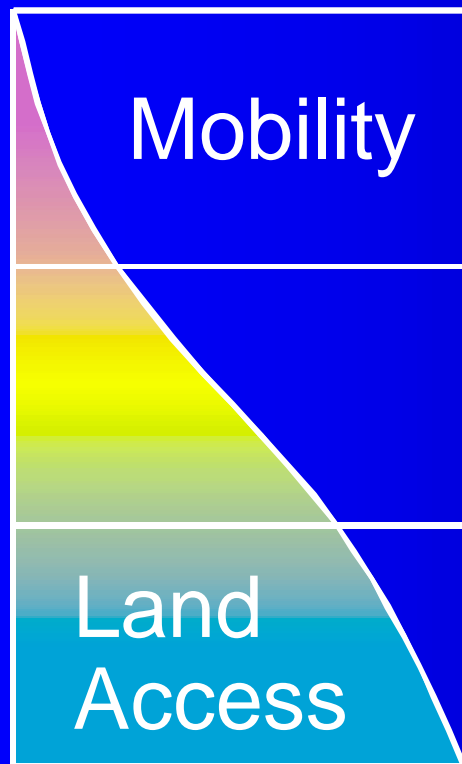
The purpose is not to establish any new or different geometric design standards or criteria.



Published in 1997

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/flex/index.htm>

Function



Context - Sensitive Design
recognizes that
different projects
need different
design approaches.

NCHRP Projects

in support of

Context Sensitive Design Activities

- ✓ **Project 15-19, Context Sensitive Design, Best Practices**
- ✓ **Project 20-7/114, AASHTO Guide**
- ✓ **Project 15-22, Safety Consequences of Flexibility in Highway Design**

NCHRP Projects

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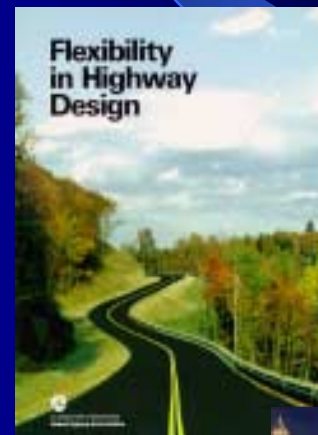
Context Sensitive Design Activities

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- ✓ **Project 20-7/114, AASHTO Guide**
- ✓ **Project 15-22, Safety Consequences of Flexibility in Highway Design**

AASHTO Guide

Four chapters are being developed to supplement the FHWA's "Flexibility in Highway Design" document

- 1. The Project Development Process**
- 2. Community Involvement in Context-Sensitive Design**
- 3. Highway Geometric Elements – Design and Safety Considerations**
- 4. Tort Liability**



NCHRP Projects

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Context Sensitive Design Activities

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in Highway Design**

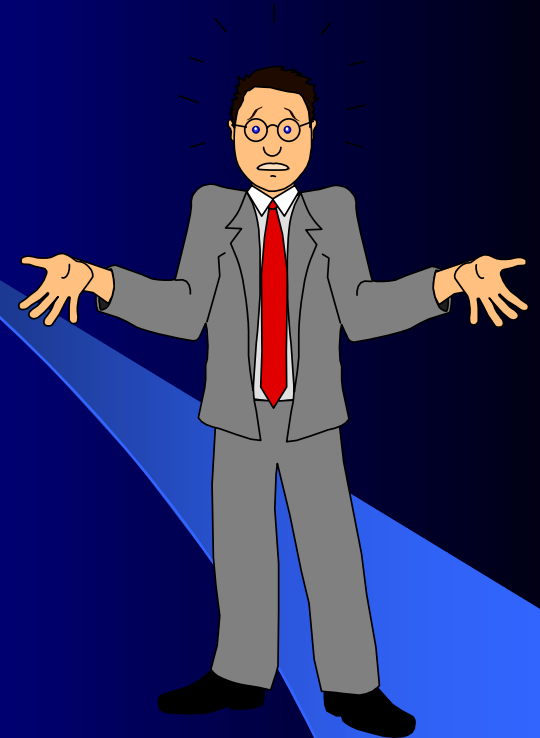
Final words

- Context-sensitive design is here to stay.
- Goal is to have it apply to all highway projects.
- Process will become the norm rather than the exception.
- Context-sensitive design requires hard work.
- Context-sensitive design requires taking risks.



Questions ?

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Context-Sensitive Design Website

www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd

